

Avoid plastics, reduce pollution









Choose less plastic









Buy it once









Reuse with pride









Waste updates a focus on plastics

Kellie Kish **Recycling Coordinator** 



### **Division Overview**

#### Services Provided (1-4 unit buildings):

- Garbage (weekly)
- Recycling (every other week)
- Organics Collection (weekly)
- Large Item Collection (weekly)
- Yard Waste (Apr. Nov.)
- Clean City Services:
  - CleanSweeps
  - Litter Clean-Up Supplies
  - Adopt-A-programs
  - Graffiti Abatement
  - Voucher Program
  - Event Recycling Services



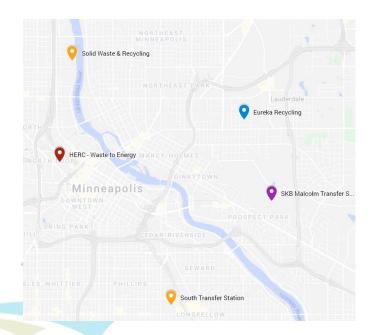


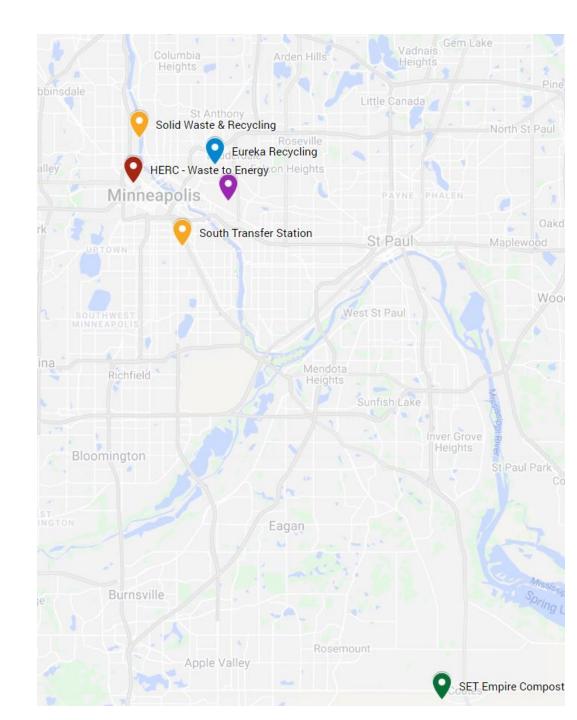




## Where does it go?

- Solid Waste & Recycling
- South Transfer Station
- PHERC Waste to Energy
- 💡 Eureka Recycling
- SKB Malcolm Transfer Station
- SET Empire Composting Fac...





## Recycling

- 97% of customers have a recycling cart
- Recycling is processed for sale to markets by Eureka Recycling
- 9.32% contamination (2020)
  - Up from 8.51% in 2019
  - Most recent sort was lower! (8.7%)

### Yes, please recycle items on recycling guide

- Food, beverage and toiletry containers
- Paper that does not come into direct contact with food

#### Do not recycle:

- Plastic bags, wrap or film
- Scrap metal
- Electronics
- Anything larger than a 5-gallon pail
- Anything smaller than 3"
- Pressurized cylinders















- No plastic bags
- No bagged recycling
- No black plastics

- No large plastic items
- No random metal items
- No Styrofoam™

When in doubt, find out.

What makes something recyclable?

- Collection
  - Picked up or dropped off
- Sorted
  - Equipment at a material recovery facility (MRF)
- Markets
  - Someone to buy and make into a new product









## Plastic bag recycling

- Plasticfilmrecycling.org
- More than plastic shopping bags
- Plastic films #2 and #4 have strongest markets for recycling
- Turned into durable plastics patio furniture, landscape edging, plastic lumber

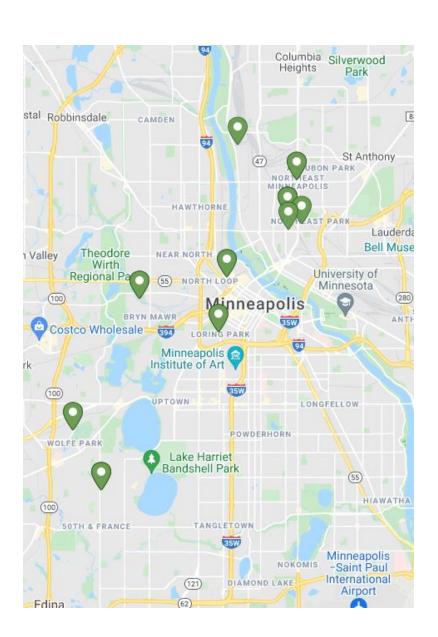




## Pak Tech packaging

- Not recyclable in your recycling cart
  - Flat and act more like a piece of paper than a container
- Many local breweries accept for reuse or recycling
- paktech-opi.com/recycling-drop-off/





## Problematic packaging









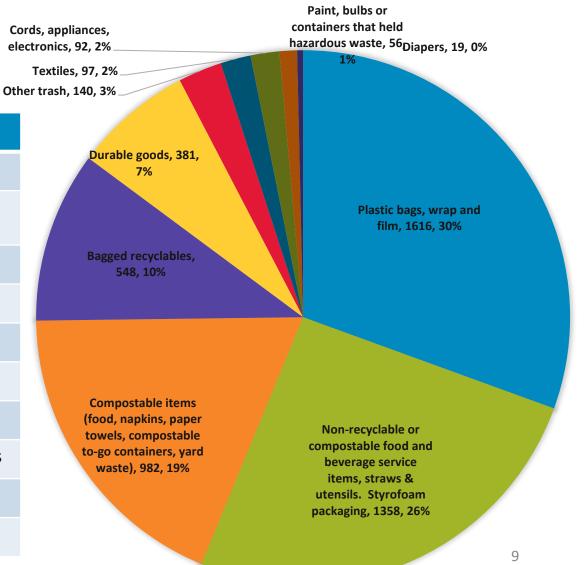




## 2018 recycling contamination evaluation

• 5,214 pieces

| %   | Category                                   |
|-----|--|
| 30% | Plastic bags, wrap and film                |
| 26% | Non-recyclable or compostable food service |
| 19% | Compostable items                          |
| 10% | Bagged recycling                           |
| 7%  | Durable goods                              |
| 3%  | Other trash                                |
| 2%  | Textiles                                   |
| 2%  | Cords, appliances, electronics             |
| 1%  | Paint, bulbs, HHW containers               |
| 0%  | Diapers                                    |



## Common recycling issues / questions

- Are my recyclables actually recycled?
- What do the #s mean?
- What plastics can be recycled?
- Only 9% of plastics are recycled?
- Why not black plastics?
- What do I do with lids?
- Mason jars?
- Broken glass bottle?
- Flatten or not flatten?
  - Boxes, cartons, cans, etc.
- Remove windows from envelopes?
- Shredded paper?
- Scrap metal (pots and pans, silverware, nails, toasters, pipes)?





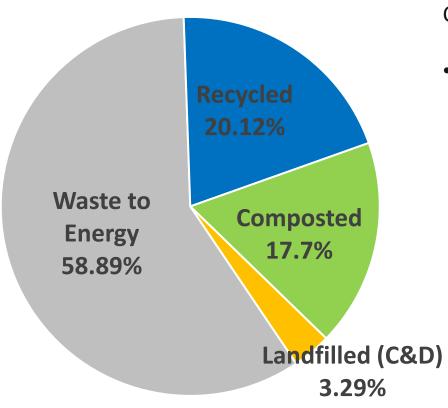
Make the I love you sign in ASL to tell which plastics are recyclable

## What happens to my recycling?

- Waste is very local
- National stories aren't always accurate for what's happening here

- Eureka Recycling:
  - 100% of recyclables stay in North America
  - 90% stay in Midwest
  - 83% in Minnesota

### 2020 residential waste overview



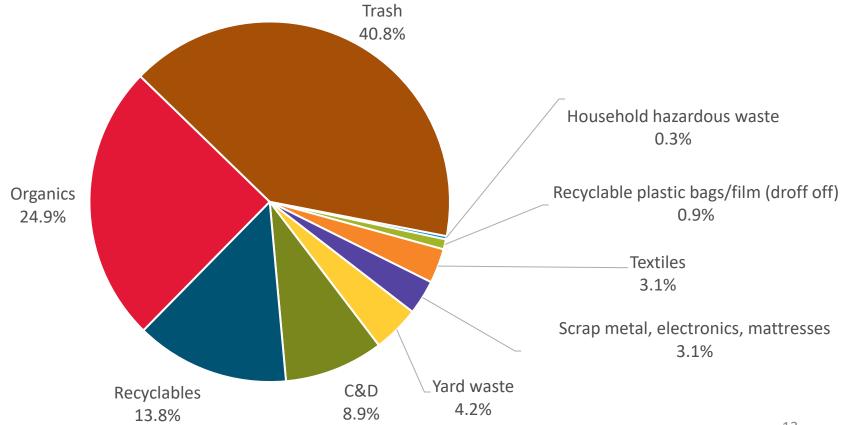
City Goal (adopted 2015)

- Recycle or compost 50% of <u>citywide</u> waste by 2020; 80% by 2030, and achieve 0 percent growth in total waste from 2010 level.
  - Citywide includes:
    - Residential
    - Multifamily
    - Commercial
    - Institutional
    - Public spaces
    - Construction & demolition debris

## Hennepin County 2016 HERC Residential Waste Sort

### Composition of the trash

Note: Study waste completed before Minneapolis organics program was rolled-out



## How reduce what's in the trash?

#### Personal choices

- Choose reusable items
- Avoid packaging
- Only buying an item if you actually need it
- Go digital bills, media, etc.
- Shopping used / donating usable items
- Buy durable, repairable / mendable (and repair and mend)

#### Manufacturing choices

- Using <u>post-consumer</u> and post-industrial material in their products
- Design for disassembly / reuse
- Design and support infrastructure for repair, reuse and recycling



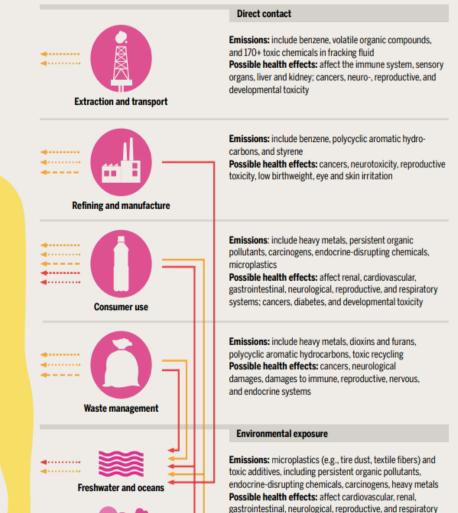


## Plastic manufacturing

- 99% of single-use plastics are made from fossil fuels
  - Byproduct of fracking
- Fence-line communities – near fracking or processing facilities
  - Shelter in place orders when leaks
  - Higher levels of cancer and other health issues
  - Google "Cancer alley" for more info

#### NO WAY TO AVOID IT

We are exposed to toxic chemicals and microplastics at all stages in the plastics life cycle. The pollutants can get into our bodies in many ways.



PLASTIC ATLAS 2019 / CIE

systems; cancers, diabetes, neuro-, reproductive, and

Microplastics

Inhalation Ingestion Skin contact

Chemicals

developmental toxicity

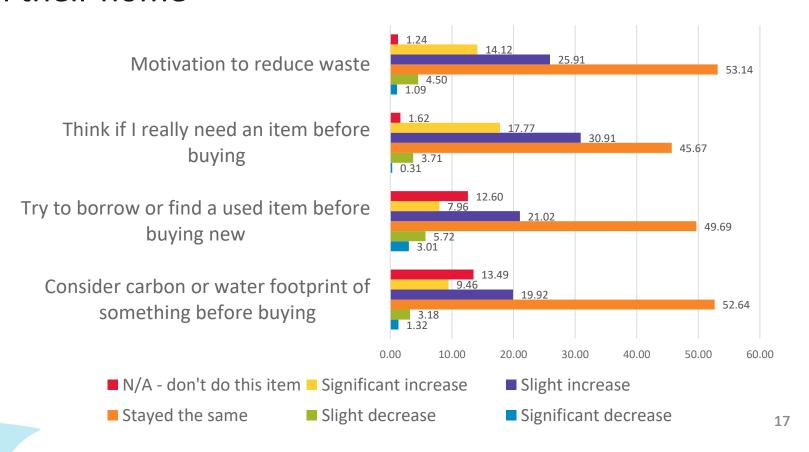
## COVID-19 Waste behavior survey

- Goal: Evaluate how the coronavirus global pandemic and spending more time at home has changed how residents buy, use and discard:
  - 1. Clothing and household goods
  - 2. Food
  - 3. Single-use and reusable items
- Nov. 20 Dec 20., 2020
- 1,354 total surveys received (1,302 valid)



## Waste reduction & reuse – a positive side of the pandemic

 65% of residents feel more aware of the waste created in their home

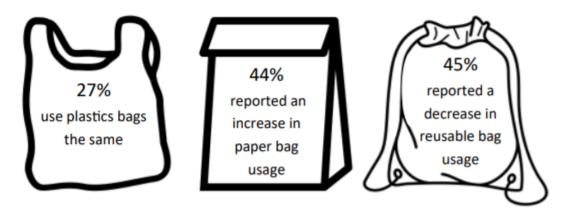


## Clothing & household goods

- Overall decrease in amount of new or used items purchased.
  - 58% decrease in NEW items purchased
  - 42% decrease in USED items purchased
- Borrowing or acquiring used items from friends, family, neighbors remained the same for 40.26% of respondents
- 34% reported increase in fixing or mending clothing or household goods (52% reported no change, 4% reported a decrease)
- 1/3 of respondents reported increase in posting unwanted items on social media sites.

## Single-use and reusable bags

 Some stores were not allowing use of reusable bags.



- Increase in bag usage also likely due to increase in ordering curbside pickup or grocery delivery.
  - Residents noted not being able to specify their bag preference
  - Residents also noted few items in bags from curbside/delivery (ex. 2 items in a plastic bag)

## Other reusable vs. single-use

- Paper plates (Home more, clean more? Quick cleanup after lunch home schooling?)
  - 10% decrease vs. 7% increase
- Disposable silverware
  - 13% decrease vs 8% increase
  - 70% rarely use from take-out/delivery, but only 36% request silverware not be provided when ordering
  - 88% of people support not allowing restaurants to distribute silverware or straws unless requested
- 29% Increase in reusable cleaning rags/towels and 16% in cloth napkins (Unsurprisingly, 49% increase in cleaning wipes.)
- Bottled water: 11% reported a decrease, 8% an increase. (Less time out and about?)
  - Reusable bottle usage increased by 32%

## Maintaining behavior change

- Love your Stuff campaign
  - Tie health and environmental impacts of buying, using, and discarding
    - Single use plastics
    - Textiles
    - Food

#### Minneapolismn.gov/LoveYourStuff









Avoid plastics, reduce pollution









Switch to reusable









Buy it once









Learn clothing's true cost









Love, repair, rewear









Wear it out







Resources to find out how to dispose of an item, repair, donate, and reuse

## Updated City website

#### **Plastic**



#### Disposal guide

This searchable guide tells you how to properly dispose of many common and uncommon household items.

Find information on the best way to recycle, reuse or dispose of items from your home. Enter a search term.

cat

Cat (kitty) litter

Catalytic converter

Magazines and catalogs

Medications and prescriptions

4 results

#### Recyclable bottles and jugs #1, #2, #5 (caps on)

- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Dishwashing and laundry soap bottles and jugs
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles

#### Recyclable cups and containers #1, #2, #5

- Margarine, cottage cheese and other tubs and lids
- Produce, deli and takeout containers

#### Not recyclable

- ⊗ Plastic bags or film
- Bubble wrap
- Plastic foam (commonly referred to as Styrofoam)
- ⊗ Black plastics
- Any container that held hazardous waste

minneapolismn.gov/disposalguide

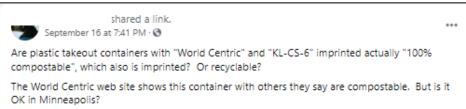
## City Recycling Facebook group

- Facebook.com/groups/minneapolisrecycles
- Post pictures, ask questions, get answers from residents or our office
- Over 500 members









## Hennepin Green Disposal Guide

- For those without City collection services
- Hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide



Home Items Drop-off facilities Cor

Search items

Face coverings required

All visitors to county buildings are required to wear face coverings that cover both mouth and nose. Masks are available if needed. Click here for more info.

#### Plastic bags and wrap

Recommended disposal options

#### Recycle at retailer

Plastic bags and wrap can be brought to retailers that offer plastic bag recycling, such as grocery and department stores. For plastic bag recycling locations in the Twin Cities, check plasticfilmrecycling.org.

Plastic bags are NOT accepted in curbside recycling programs. Separate and clean plastic bags, then take them to a retailer that offers plastic bag recycling.

#### Numbers on plastics: confusing?

Yes, they are confusing. To crack the recycling code, it's best to use the description of the materials (bottles, cups, containers), images and the numbers to determine what is recyclable.



## Bring your own bag ordinance

- 5 cent fee on ALL carryout bags
- Enforcement resumed on October 1st
- Exemptions
  - Temporary events (inc. Farmers Markets)
  - Take-out, delivery, dry-cleaning
  - Bulk bags
  - Secondhand bags
  - Food assistance programs

## Avoid bag fees. Bring your own bag.



# Help keep our community clean year-round

Free containers, bags, gloves, etc. available all year round

- Request Litter Cleanup Supplies
- Adopt-a-Litter Container
- Adopt-a-Recycling Container
- Adopt-a-Block
- Adopt-a-Street
- Adopt-a-Median
- Adopt-a-Storm Drain
- Storm Drain Stenciling
- Graffiti Paint Over

minneapolismn.gov/cleancity







## Garden Tool Swap

- First garden tool swap! Held May 8, 2021 for 2 hours at 4 City parks (one in each quadrant)
- Over 200 participants
- Almost 700 items brought
  - Pots over 8" in diameter over 250
  - Pots less than 8" in diameter over 230
  - Tools 141
  - Gloves, aprons, kneeling pads 14
  - Books, plant labels, lattice, shepherd hooks 13
  - Bird houses / feeders 12
  - Garden art 10
- Minor amount of items (>30)
   were not taken and were
   recycled or thrown away
- Will hold again in 2022





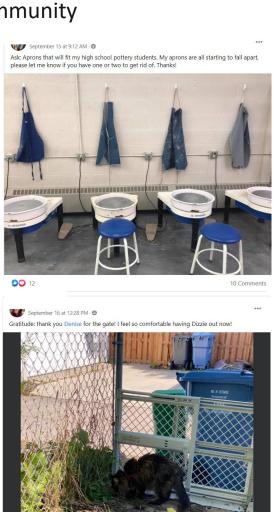


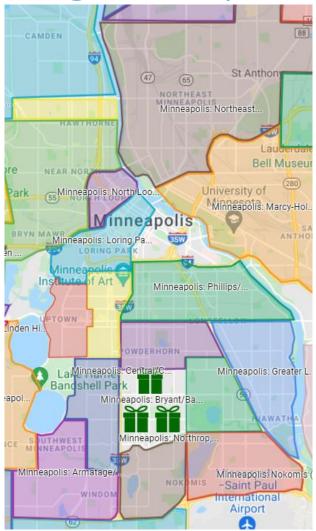


## Join your local Buy Nothing Group

- Hyperlocal sharing community
  - Give
  - Receive
  - Borrow
  - Thank
- All for free







Find your group: BuyNothingProject.org



**PROJECT** 

Give. Ask. Gratitude.

www.buynothingproject.org **Buy Nothing Kingfield/East** Harriet/Tangletown, Minneapolis, MN

About Discussion Announcements Topics Members Events Media Files

Give

July 29 - 😁

Plastic food containers of various sizes. Some from take out, but some purchased for particular use (bento box) - all clean and with lids! Free to good home! What will you use them for? Packin leftovers? lunches? storing beads for projects? the berries you picked past weekend for freezing? You decide! let me know your interest!





GIFT: third birthday edition! my cousin (in-law?) dropped this humongous "3" balloon off for my kid's birthday. It's been hanging around for about a week and a half, so clearly it has overstayed its welcome. Does anyone have a need for this in the near future? Please say yes! 15



and 6 others

5 Comments

GIVE: plastic storage container. I used for epsom bath salt. LaCroix for size reference \*\*if multiple people are interested, I'll draw a name.



September 25 at 9:12 AM - @

Ask: small / medium sized glass jars with lids. We've run out of small jars for storing pesto. Anyone have some small glass jars they're



asked a question in Buy Nothing (Archived) Bryant/Bancroft/Regina/Field/Northrop, Minneapolis.

Ask: looking for a large (empty) Oatmeal container for a Valentine's Day craft project. Thought I'd ask here first. Alternatively, if I end up buying a large oatmeal container, would anyone want the actual patmeal?

> Brand: Quaker - Hot Cereal Quaker, Oatmeal, 42 Oz Canister

**Ask** 



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. . . . . . . .

asked a question 👂 in Buy Nothing Northrop, Minneapolis,

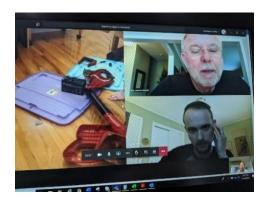
Ask: Im looking for empty large plastic buckets that kitty litter comes in? I'm looking for several to



2 Comments

## Hennepin Programs

- Choose to Reuse: Join the Circle
  - Join anytime for reuse trips and tricks
- Fix-It Clinics
  - Guided assistance to fix household goods, mend clothing, etc. (Still remote for now)
- Zero Waste Challenge
  - 8-month personalized challenge (Started 9/1/21)
- Stop Wasted Food Challenge
  - Started 10/13/21
  - Tips, tricks, resources to help reduce wasted food
- Deconstruction grants
  - Up to \$5k / project to salvage usable building materials / deconstruct a building instead of demo







### Get active

- Learn more about the issues
  - Watch documentaries
  - Participate in community conversations
    - Tangletown Neighborhood low waste series
      - Tangletown.org/lowwaste
- Contact manufacturers
- Contact legislators (State and local)

## Right to repair

- You can bring your car to any mechanic because manufacturers are required to provide repair manuals and make parts available
- Right to repair bills want to extend this to electronics and farm equipment
- Bills at the state level and federal level

## Local legislation — "Advanced Recycling"

- SF 1392 / HF 2197 "Advanced recycling establishment"
  - Bill introduced in 2021 legislative session included in Env. NR Resources Omnibus bill, removed in negotiations
  - Term created and defined by the chemical industry (also referred to as chemical recycling)
    - technologies from gasification to polymerization
  - Bill aims to reclassify processing waste plastics into a fuel as manufacturing rather than waste processing / solid waste disposal – and seeks less regulations
  - Bill classifies 'crude oil, naphtha, and liquid transportation fuels' as recycled products
- Waste to energy/fuel is not considered recycling in MN
- Bill passed in 14 states
- Passage would not support an overall reduction of plastic use
- Opposed by Association of Minnesota Recyclers (ARM), Eureka Recycling, Association of Plastic Recyclers (ARP)



Avoid plastics, reduce pollution









Love, repair, rewear









Eat it, don't waste it







### Questions?

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